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Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, including the provision of further guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

Note verbale dated 23 March 2015 from the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to transmit the final report of the United Nations Forum on Forests country-led initiative entitled "Interlaken+10: workshop on governing forest landscapes — lessons learned from 10 years of experience and the way forward post-2015" (see annex).**

In the light of the importance of the report and its relevance to the work of the United Nations, in particular in the environmental field, the Permanent Mission would appreciate it if the present note and the report were issued as a document of the United Nations Forum on Forests.

* E/CN.18/2015/1.
** The annex is being circulated in the language of submission only.

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Annex to the note verbale dated 23 March 2015 from the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

INTERLAKEN+10

Workshop on Governing Forest Landscapes:

Lessons learnt from 10 years of experience and the way forward post-2015

3-6 February 2015

A Country-led Initiative (CLI) in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests

http://unff-interlaken10.org

Summary

This country-led Initiative (CLI) in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests brought together over 140 participants from 50 countries. The workshop began with a summary of progress made in the last ten years (since the first Interlaken CLI in 2004). The remainder of the meeting consisted largely of small group discussions along two axes:

Regional groups: Africa; Asia (including the Middle East); Europe, Central Asia and North America; and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Thematic groups: forest tenure and decentralization; forest landscape governance and the green economy; forest governance and biodiversity; and forest governance and safeguards in REDD+ implementation.

A number of participant-sponsored topics were discussed in a World Café format; and an additional session focused on monitoring and assessment and ways forward. The Major Group of Children and Youth convened a parallel meeting the results of which are also summarized here.

Through a consultative process, a set of recommendations were put forth on topics ranging from the architecture of UNFF, IAF, CPF and their future incarnations, to a broad call for greater forest stewardship, to the identification of topics of particular significance for countries to address themselves. Some crucial recurrent themes included the importance of secure land and forest tenure, more equitable participation of marginalized groups and various other stakeholders, acknowledging and incorporating the rights of indigenous peoples and communities, improvements in coordination and learning both horizontally and vertically within countries and between, addressing corruption and illegal activities of various kinds more effectively, and a stronger role in supporting international processes like REDD+ and green economies.

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"Trees don't grow only on soil; they grow on

appropriate policies and institutions" (Bharat Pokharel, workshop participant).

I. Introduction

1. The 11th session of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF11, 4-15 May 2015, New York) will review the effectiveness of the current "international arrangement on forests" (IAF) and on that basis decide how to strengthen the IAF beyond 2015. As a country led contribution to the discussions at UNFF11, the Governments of Switzerland, Indonesia, South Africa, Mexico and Ukraine co-hosted Interlaken+10: "Workshop on Governing Forest Landscapes: Lessons learned from 10 years of experience and the way forward post-2015" (3-6 February, Interlaken, http://unff-interlaken10.org).[1]

2. Objectives: Interlaken+10 is the sixth workshop in the following series of international workshops on the important topics of forest governance and decentralization: Since 2004, a total of five such workshops were organized biannually, most of them as Country-Led Initiatives in support of the UNFF.

- Decentralization, Federal Systems of Forestry and National Forest Programmes (27-30 April 2004, Interlaken, Switzerland)
- Forest Governance and Decentralization in Asia and the Pacific (4-6 September 2006, Yogyakarta, Indonesia)
- Forest Governance and Decentralization in Africa (8-11 April 2008, Durban, South Africa)
- Forest Governance, Decentralization and REDD-plus in Latin America and the Caribbean (31 August-3 September 2010, Oaxaca, Mexico)
- Forests in a Green Economy for Countries in Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia: Lviv Forum (11-14 September 2012, Lviv, Ukraine)

3. These workshops have clearly demonstrated that good governance is of fundamental importance to achieving sustainable forest management and the contribution of forests and the forest sector to sustainable development. The objectives of Interlaken+10 were to:

- Take stock of the experience gained through previous workshops and lessons learned on governance and decentralisation as they relate to forest management and conservation;

[1] Interlaken+10 was convened by Indonesia, South Africa, Mexico, Ukraine and Switzerland, and co-organized by the Swiss Federal Office for Environment (FOEN); Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC); Bern University of Applied Sciences, School of Agriculture, Forest and Food Sciences (HAFL); HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); and the Programme for Forests (PROFOR). Co-sponsors included the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation & Development, the Norwegian Ministry for Agriculture and Food, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland, the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, FOEN and SDC.

- Reflect on developments over the past 10 years related to governance of forest landscapes,[2] taking into account recent developments and trends globally;
- Identify key issues that need to be addressed in a global forest context; and
- Develop concrete proposals and recommendations to UNFF11 on how to meaningfully address governance issues and foster good governance of forest landscapes as part of the post-2015 IAF and UN development agenda.

4. As with the previous workshops, Interlaken+10 was a technical workshop designed to carry the issue of forest governance forward. Participants were invited to speak in their own personal capacities.

5. Participation and format: Interlaken+10 brought together 140 participants from 50 countries, as well as representatives of numerous international, regional and non-governmental organizations. The discussions were organized along two major axes: Regional and topical. Regionally, discussants were grouped into the following regions: Africa; Asia (including the Middle East); Europe, Central Asia and North America; and Latin America and the Caribbean. There was also a global group. From the topical standpoint, discussions were organized around the following four topics:

1. Forest tenure and decentralization
2. Forest landscape governance and the green economy
3. Forest governance and biodiversity
4. Forest governance and safeguards in REDD+ implementation

6. Parallel Conference on Youth: A parallel meeting (3-6 February) was organized by the International Forestry Students Association (IFSA) on behalf of the UNFF Major Group on "Youth and Children". This meeting, which developed a vision for the future of IAF and engagement of youth in the areas of international governance, multiple use of forests, education, technology and SFM, climate and forests, gathered 23 young forestry students from five continents. The objective of the workshop was to offer the space for them to develop concrete policy proposals on the future United Nations forest policy regime, including issues of youth participation and forestry education, in order to frame an input for UNFF11. The group fully embraced the opportunity and, after bringing together and discussing the issues from their different perspectives, informally presented their ideas and recommendations to a group of experts from the Interlaken+10 workshop for a lively exchange on their draft proposals. In addition, they presented their results to the main Interlaken+10 audience on the last day of the workshop.[3]

II. Concepts and terminology

7. The following expressions or "definitions" of governance are in common use. While they differ in precise wording, they all embrace the fundamental elements or

[2] Some prefer the use of forests to the term, 'landscapes'.

[3] Their workshop was funded by the German and Swiss Governments and supported by the main organizers of the conference and the Bern University of Applied Sciences. More detail is provided in Section X.

principles of participatory decision-making, transparency, accountability and the rule of law.

- Governance. Governance is the process of governing, the way in which society is managed and how the competing priorities and interests of different groups are reconciled. It includes the formal institutions of government but also informal arrangements. Governance is concerned with the processes by which citizens participate in decision-making, how government is accountable to its citizens and how society obliges its members to observe its rules and laws (FAO 2009).

- Good Governance. Good governance is participatory, consensus-oriented, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive, and follows the rule of law. It assures that corruption is minimized, the views of minorities are taken into account, and the voices of the most vulnerable are heard (UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP); http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/good-governance.pdf).

- Good forest governance is normative and is about quality. Important principles that constitute good governance include: stakeholder engagement or participation, fairness, accountability, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness (from Bodegom et al. 2012, An approach for integrating forest governance into national forest-related monitoring systems, *FAO Forestry Policy and Institutions Working Paper* No. 29, Rome).

- Definitions of governance have been developed for broader natural resource and land use issues. Wider 'landscape governance' approaches can equally apply to forests and to efforts to more explicitly involve and include forest interests in cross-sectoral and landscape-wide governance that can better interface with livelihoods.[4] A CIFOR study found no clear definitions of landscape governance, but Holmgren, CIFOR's Director General, concluded that "It is the human dimension that makes it a landscape. That is, there has to be some form of institution(s) to express ambitions for the geographic area, set priorities and help transform these ambitions into action. We can call this landscape governance and should acknowledge that such governance arrangements can be wildly different and exist as entirely informal as well as strictly formal arrangements" (http://blog.cifor.org/19791/on-landscapes-part-2-what-are-landscapes).

III. Background on the five workshops held from 2004 to 2012

8. The 2004 Interlaken CLI workshop was global in scope and focused on conceptual and operational aspects of decentralization. In 2006, in Yogyakarta, the workshop focused on requisites for economically and technically viable decentralization and governance reform in Asia and the Pacific. The 2008 Durban CLI workshop emphasized governance and decentralization links with livelihoods, conservation and financial flows in Africa. Oaxaca's 2010 workshop addressed governance, decentralization and REDD in Latin American countries. In 2012 the Lviv workshop focused on the role of governance in a pathway towards a green economy in Eastern Europe and Northern and Central Asia.

[4] In this report, the emphasis on landscapes in no way reduces the importance of forests.

9. All five workshops:

- Brought together a range of stakeholders from Government, civil society, research institutions, community organizations and the business sector.
- Examined livelihoods, equity, forest conditions and sustainable development more generally in the context of addressing decentralization.
- Employed a variety of communication approaches, including formal presentations, panel discussions, working groups and field trips.
- Facilitated the sharing of experience among countries, stimulated insights, identified lessons learned and developed recommendations for action by UNFF and others.

10. The reports of all the workshops were presented and distributed at the subsequent UNFF session.

IV. Lessons learned in the last ten years

11. An over-arching finding, encompassing the specifics outlined below, has been the ubiquity of problems relating to bridging scales, knowledge and values in multi-level governance:

a. National and global trends influence social, political, economic interactions at local levels; similarly, and less well recognized, local realities influence how such national and global forces play out.

b. There is increasing fragmentation in dealing with forests at all level and scales, including protective, productive and social functions; there are also differentiated views of SFM.

c. The values and benefits of forests accrue at different scales:

(1) Decentralization should in theory facilitate responsiveness to local values, but power imbalances regularly interfere.

(2) National/global values include, e.g. biodiversity, climate and hydrological regulation, soil protection.

(3) Decentralization should strive for balance and sustainability of values and benefits across scales.

d. Main drivers of deforestation are found at multiple scales and are generally outside the forestry sector; effective cross-sectoral policies are required to address them.

12. Local level communities and local stakeholders

- For forest management to be sustainable at the local level (which is crucial for broader scale sustainability), it must deliver significant, net positive benefits to local communities, households, and individuals, not just burdens (forestry regulations, REDD+, forest conservation).
- Community-based forest management has been shown to be a viable livelihood strategy and a means to address SFM and climate change, but it requires empowerment of local people, capacity-building at various levels, community

support (including recognizing indigenous knowledge, valuing local capabilities, secure tenure).

- Forest law, as reflected locally, consists of inconsistent/conflicting rules, unrealistic prohibitions, burdensome (sometimes corrupt) bureaucratic requirements, and high transaction costs, all of which inhibit local compliance with the law.
- Complaint/conflict resolution mechanisms are needed to guarantee community forest management rights are respected in the design/implementation of REDD+, protected area management and land-use decisions.

13. Landscape level and cross-sectoral coordination

- Landscape transformation has been driven by national/global policies and markets, changing consumption at all levels and expansion of transnational traders and investors.
- Different landscape actors and production systems, with varying dynamic social contexts, result in different land uses, which in turn require appropriately calibrated interventions, incentives and sanctions.
- Landscape approaches add complexity. Engagement of women and the vulnerable becomes more difficult than at the community level. Landscape features that do not coincide with administrative boundaries increase conflict and confusion. Cultural similarities across landscapes, however, may be sources of insights, cooperation.
- There is a need for a holistic and comprehensive approach to governance reforms. This can bring more coherence/consistency to policies in many spheres that affect forests and the people living in and around them.
- Cross-sectoral integration of policies should avoid adversely affecting communities (e.g. through a proliferation of regulations) and should ideally contribute to human health and development.

14. National level: Central government roles and constraints

- Inconsistencies in policies/laws/regulations create/worsen grey areas where corruption and illegality can flourish. Effective collective action can improve regulation and enforcement.
- Central governments tend simply to devolve responsibility with little or no authority or finance.
- Dysfunction of public institutions can be a stumbling block to governance reform. Institutional innovations such as third-party certification, independent observers and Monitoring Reporting and Verification (MRV) approaches for REDD+ can promote change, as can bottom up pressure from an informed, empowered and proactive population.
- The national level also can and should play an important role in providing guidelines, interacting with international actors, and promoting information flow, financing and monitoring.

- A degree of command and control measures can protect and help sustainably manage forests; these are best based on science and robust analysis (including analysis of local human and natural conditions), with transparency and accountability.
- Governments can play a more active, concerted role in stimulating markets for sustainable products (such as certified wood products, wood energy, NTFPs) and services (including carbon offsets).

15. Regional and trans-national levels and cooperation

- Enhancing trans-boundary cooperation in forest protection, forest law enforcement, data analysis and research, and sharing resources for regional capacity building are key.
- There is a need for regional learning platforms and channels for continuing exchanges on forest-related issues among regional stakeholders — governments, scientists, indigenous and local peoples and their organizations, business and health sectors and others — to support regional cooperation, strategy development and concerted action.

16. Global level: governance of the world's forests

- There is a lack of a comprehensive stewardship for forests.[5] There has been some progress towards common discourse and conceptual reference frames but the global forest governance regime remains fragmented.
- There is a serious challenge in translating stated national commitments into concrete actions.
- There is a need to increase the efficiency, effectiveness and capacity of global platforms dealing with forest-related issues to deliver equitable outcomes.
- There is a need to connect global platforms more effectively with regional platforms.
- There is a need to acknowledge the power and potential of lower level actors, as their wishes/responses interact with higher level policies. This can lead to flexibility, feedback and learning in policy/implementation processes at all levels.
- However, some doubts remain that such outcomes can be delivered from the global level considering the experience of the past 20 years.

[5] Stewardship of forests, as used in this report, means providing leadership to promote the vital significance of forests for economic and social development and environmental protection of all countries, to integrate forests and the broader sustainable development agenda and to promote implementation of sustainable management of all types of forest and trees outside forests at all levels through *inter alia* providing relevant policy recommendations and advice, fostering coordination and collaboration with relevant stakeholders, mobilizing resources and high level political support, effective influencing of major international/intergovernmental processes and providing substantive support for activities carried out to this end.

V. Key issues and findings discussed in the workshop's four thematic groups[6]

17. Forest tenure and decentralization

This group emphasized the following:

- There is a need to recognize the efficacy of local communities and indigenous peoples to manage their forest resources sustainably when their forest rights are clearly recognized. The growing body of empirical evidence was discussed, demonstrating that where communities exercise strong, devolved forest tenure rights environmental and social outcomes are better.
- In light of the growing trend for communities to take responsibility for managing forests, changes are needed in the roles of forestry agencies. Most agreed that these agencies should shift from their longstanding role of direct regulation and enforcement to protecting local rights and providing technical advice, in a more advisory and facilitative manner.
- Complexity and high transaction costs can constrain effective forest management by communities.
- There is a need to build on lessons learned from 10 years of work on governance and tenure when considering a possible amendment to the Non Legally Binding Instrument on all Types of Forests, especially in light of the evolving Sustainable Development Goals. Governance and tenure security could usefully be included in Global Objective 2.[7]
- Adopt and encourage countries to implement the Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security adopted by the FAO Committee on World Food Security in 2012.
- Build consensus on the necessary elements of a governance system/good governance, building on existing tools such as the PROFOR/FAO Framework for Assessing and Monitoring Forest Governance (Rome 2011) and World Resources Institute (WRI) forest governance assessment framework.[8]

18. Forest governance and biodiversity

The principles of governance of forest landscapes apply equally to the governance of biodiversity conservation.

Challenges include the following:

- Governance reform processes take time and are vulnerable to shifts in political priorities.
- There is fragmentation of forest issues and insufficient participation of many major stakeholders (notably civil society and the private sector).

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[6] The recommendations from the regional groups are provided in section VIII; with the full issues/rationales for the recommendations presented in detail in Section IX.

[7] Some participants urged the recommendation of a fifth Global Objective on Governance, a suggestion that met with considerable controversy.

[8] http://www.wri.org/publication/assessing-forest-governance.

19. Forest landscape governance and green economy

This group emphasized the need for long-term investments to incorporate stakeholder interests, in support of more equitable processes, and the difficulty (but necessity) of improving evidence-based indicators for monitoring and evaluation.

Challenges:

- There is inadequate understanding of the compatibility of SFM with a green economy, taking into account the application of green economy principles at the operational level.
- A consensus has not yet been reached on the valuation and payment for ecosystem services within a green economy framework, taking into account the diverse values of landscapes/ecosystem services/cultural and spiritual values.
- Forest sector priorities have not taken into account policies in other sectors and are therefore not fully integrated into the overall policy framework (i.e., there is a need for removal of perverse incentives and subsidies).
- The private sector has not been adequately integrated into forest policy development and implementation at international and national levels.
- Corporate social responsibility in forest industries has not yet progressed sufficiently to ensure SFM.

20. Forest governance and safeguards in REDD+ implementation

An overview of REDD+ from the UN-REDD perspective, an example of a REDD+ project in the Philippines, and an analysis of the benefit sharing mechanisms in several countries, all with special emphasis on how UNFF can contribute to the REDD+ safeguards work, emphasized the complexity of the issue (e.g., seven UNFCCC safeguards, 152 indicators in the Philippine case).

Challenges:

- How best to encourage the adoption and operationalization of the safeguards
- Inadequate sharing of lessons learned with regard to REDD+
- Leveraging and scaling up of forest governance
- Coordination between UN-REDD and other initiatives, and clarification of safeguards and approaches to them, both within and between countries
- Effective mechanisms/platforms for multiple stakeholder involvement, including indigenous peoples
- Elite capture and lack of transparency — significant issues in the various benefit sharing mechanisms being tried

VI. Summary of key issues/points raised by workshop participants *in toto*

21. UNFF and Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

- The implementation of SFM and achievement of the four GOFs is critically dependent on good governance at all levels.
- The current four GOFs are not well formulated and contain overlapping elements that are difficult for countries to assess and report on.
- There are also significant gaps in the four GOFs in the areas of governance, scientific/technical cooperation, and forest product production and value-added processing, which form the basis for many of the national and international actions contained in the Forest Instrument and are notable themes reflected in the SDG targets.
- UNFF has weak links to other international forestry processes.

22. Governance and its evidence base

- There is no single form or model of government associated with good governance. The principles of good governance can be applied in systems of government that range from highly centralized to highly decentralized.
- The term "governance" is often used interchangeably to refer to the international institutional architecture, as well as to the way a country takes decisions and applies the rule of law. These are different concepts.
- Putting in place measures for good governance can be difficult and is not without costs; the challenges of good governance often go well beyond the forest sector.
- The role of science in forest governance is only effective if the science is independent.
- Mechanisms to connect discussions and resolutions to action/follow up on the ground are needed.
- Indicators designed to measure forest-related governance already exist. These need to be applied and results reported at global, regional and national levels.

23. Economic, financial and livelihood concerns

- Good governance and a stable national investment climate go hand in hand; good governance is needed to generate private commercial investment, both domestic and international, in SFM.
- There is a difficulty with financing of forest-related initiatives, particularly at the local level.
- Work is needed on the whole value chain for forest products, including production, value-added processing and chain of custody.[9]

[9] See for instance, the Forest Legality Alliance Risk Tool: http://www.forestlegality.org/risk-tool.

- Forest benefits are not equitably distributed, particularly with regard to women and forest peoples.

24. Tenure

- Secure land tenure for communities and indigenous people has multiple benefits, including reducing deforestation and forest degradation, improving forest management and enhancing livelihoods and global justice.

25. Capacity building

- Capacity is inadequate at various levels, particularly as regards the ability of forestry actors to communicate strategically with other sectors and other actors.
- Many countries lack the capacity and expertise to deal with other sectors (e.g. agriculture, transport, energy) that are the drivers of deforestation, and to address disparities in power among stakeholders.
- The development of effective, equitable governance takes time (cf. advances in the Model Forests Network after 20 years of work or the experience of the Adaptive Collaborative Management Program at CIFOR).[10]

26. Communication and decision-making

- More effective and regular communication and sharing of experience could lead to useful learning across sectors and among stakeholders.
- Many forest-related governance issues deal with a country's fundamental decision-making processes regarding land tenure and access to forest resources, civil society participation and transparency.
- Effective mechanisms for cross-sectoral coordination are basic elements of good governance at all levels.

VII. Recommendations directed to UNFF with regard to UNFF11 and to the post 2015 IAF

27. Participants of the CLI consider the following recommendations, recognizing that a variety of opinions have been expressed. We have opted for greater inclusivity, striving to maximize the insights available to UNFF in its coming deliberations.

1. Frame and implement inter-sessional activities at UNFF11 and beyond, within the overall goal of contributing to a broader stewardship of the world's forests.
2. Building on current work by CPF members and others, encourage the CPF or its successor to strengthen support for and facilitate efforts by countries (including building their capacity) to improve forest-related governance and make available financial resources as necessary. This may include, for example, strengthening land tenure security,

[10] See for instance, http://www.imfn.net/ or www.cifor.org/acm/.

mechanisms for effective cross-sectoral and stakeholder coordination, strengthening the capacity of forest rights holders, and enabling environments for investment in SFM at local and national levels.

3. Develop a specific mandate (with financial resources) for CPF or its successor to strengthen and facilitate efforts by countries in the valuation of forest resources and services at local and national levels, improving benefit sharing mechanisms, implementation of PES schemes, and ensuring that forests are fully represented in current efforts to establish national green accounting, using internationally agreed standards, as well as through market mechanisms.

4. Consider amending/updating the Forest Instrument where appropriate to take into account developments on forest governance since 2007, to explicitly address issues related to forest governance, including aspects of good governance such as tenure security, secure rights and a stronger voice for indigenous people and local communities, justice and rule of law, etc.

5. Encourage member states to explicitly include the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities in appropriate fora addressing land tenure security (e.g. SDG 1 and 5) and through mechanisms such as the SDG indicators.

6. Strengthen the UNFF, including at UNFF11 and complemented by country level efforts, to play a key role in the coordination, monitoring and review of the forest related aspects of the SDGs.

7. Initiate a process that informs REDD+ and other international processes/ opportunities on broader forest governance issues relevant to SFM and REDD+, takes advantage of lessons learned, and helps operationalize the REDD+ safeguards, including monitoring of its implementation. This process should be complementary to that of UNFCCC, within the pertinent framework and in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

8. Ensure that future sessions of UNFF and its intersessional processes (including, *inter alia*, CPF or its successor) provide a platform to share experiences and lessons learned related to forest governance among countries and across regions and processes, and provide channels for these lessons to inform Forum decisions.

9. Invite and meaningfully engage in the processes of the Forum and in the implementation of its resolutions all relevant stakeholders who have been inadequately involved,[11] including through the creation of interactive platforms (at regional, national and local levels) that build on existing platforms like national forest programmes (NFPs) or others created through REDD+ or FLEGT, and a serious role in identifying new and emerging issues.

10. In pursuit of stronger political continuity of governance reform processes, combine stronger stakeholder involvement at local and

[11] These include, among others, civil society, the private sector, women, the poor, youth, local communities and indigenous peoples, other Major Groups and regional/subregional bodies.

national levels with the linking of national processes with regional policy frameworks and international commitments.

11. Streamline UNFF resolutions to focus on clarity (adding value without weakening past resolutions), as well as prioritizing actionable items without repeating agreed-upon language and actions, with a view to further enhancing the relevance of the UNFF.

12. Bearing in mind the differing situations and capacities of countries, UNFF-11 should urge member states to commit to strengthening support for and facilitating forest-related governance, including elements such as:

a. Enhance the efficiency, effectiveness and equity of decentralization where appropriate.

b. Strengthen policies, regulations and mechanisms to enhance incentives for investment in SFM at all levels.

c. Improve transparency and access to information (e.g. on concession operations, forest inventories) and address corruption and illegal forest activities.

d. Utilize national forest programs and similar frameworks to engage industry and civil society stakeholders at all levels.

e. Improve strategic communication and coordination among forest stakeholders, between the forest sector and other sectors, and across levels of governance.

f. Strengthen the equitable distribution of benefits across forest-related value chains, including through improved geospatial information on concessions, other land uses and maps, as well as through the creation of enabling conditions, such as technology transfer, R&D support, extension, and policies that support small and medium enterprises.

g. Respect and enforce the rights of the range of forest dependent populations, especially women, the poor, youth, and other marginalized groups.

h. Reinforce, build on and integrate local institutions, knowledge and capabilities in forests and forest management.

i. Raise awareness of the current and potential contributions of local communities and indigenous peoples to SFM.

j. Contextualize forests in broader landscapes, including cultural landscapes, recognizing the safety net functions of forests (for example, subsistence, adaptation, disaster risk reduction).

k. Work with communities to develop systematic and adequate funding and capacity to implement these recommendations.

13. Strengthen processes within the international arrangements on forests to facilitate access of countries to existing financing instruments. These include those in the framework of REDD+ (such as GEF/SFM, REDD+/SFM in the Green Climate Fund) and other forest-related initiatives conducted by CPF members, particularly for initiatives, such

as those listed in Recommendation 12, at the local level. Such processes should also create a supportive governance architecture in the IAF itself to catalyse funding and facilitate access to it.

14. Encourage countries to include monitoring and assessing forest related governance in existing reporting frameworks (including use of existing methods), in pursuit of global forest stewardship.

15. Recognizing the importance of restoration as a major objective of UNFF/IAF, the commitments included in a variety of international agreements, and the significance of governance in reaching these goals, promote forest restoration efforts at various levels, consistent with Global Objective 1, with particular attention to land tenure and the participation of local communities.

16. Reflect on the inclusion of a fifth global objective on forests, in the future post-2015 International Arrangement on Forests, on the role of forest governance for achieving SFM.

VIII. Region-specific recommendations directed to UNFF with regard to UNFF11 and to the post 2015 IAF

The region-specific recommendations are highlighted here, with the challenges and issues that have led to them provided in Section IX.

28. Recommendations from Africa

- Undertake forest policy and legislative reforms in relevant countries.
- Undertake capacity building and skills development for various actors at all levels, and especially for local forest communities.
- Identify ways for financing local community activities (e.g., establishment of Community Resource Management Funds).
- Define clear communication channels for easy information flow where these do not exist.
- Recognize and involve women and youth as important stakeholders.
- Recognize the increasingly important roles of NGOs in forestry work and establish mechanisms for their involvement and accountability.
- Develop clear frameworks for resource ownership (tenure regimes) to promote commitment of various actors in SFM.
- Promote forest restoration efforts at various levels.

29. Recommendations from Asia

- Support capacity building in response to the need for a reorientation of global objectives of forests (SFM, education, access to finance and insurance, etc.).
- Support/develop platforms for learning and communication, including (a) sharing learning on the implementation and monitoring of the Forest

Instrument, (b) catalysing national systems for effective and user friendly communication strategies and (c) promoting sharing forums at regional levels.

- Support assessments in the following spheres:
  - o Valuation of forests to show their contribution to GDP and other goods and services
  - o Identification of stakeholder capacity gaps
  - o Needs assessment of major groups in effective engagement of SFM at all levels
  - o Identification of bottlenecks and monitoring mechanisms to combat corruption in the forest sector
  - o Need for national forest programmes
- Facilitate, support and implement the agreed provisions on
  - o secure tenure rights
  - o fair access to markets
  - o effective association of rights holders
  - o basic support services
  - o facilitation of the mainstreaming, integrating and coordination of related policies, and a process of formulating national and local policies and programmes
  - o identify and recognize the multiple goods and services of the forests
- Develop a monitoring and reporting system for the Forest Instrument and guidelines for its assessment
- Recognize the varying needs and capacity of low forest cover countries and small island developing states.

30. Recommendations from Europe, Central Asia and North America

- Decentralization, where needed, must be systematic with adequate funding and capacity, addressing the problems being experienced, with full participation of relevant stakeholders.
- UNFF should actively build bridges to engage with other sectors (i.e., water, agriculture, energy, biodiversity, construction, tourism, etc.).
- UNFF should encourage member States to establish multi-stakeholder platforms at different levels, and involve them in inter-sessional activities.
- UNFF should initiate an analysis of social, economic and environmental costs and benefits of good forest governance.
- The forest sector should contribute to the work being carried out under the system of environmental-economic accounting under the UN to reflect better the value of forests in national accounts.
- Countries should support mechanisms (e.g., private owner associations) to increase the efficiency of small scale forestry.

- Explore ways to strengthen the active and positive engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities in forest management.
- Carry out further work to establish incentive mechanisms (such as payments for environmental services, PES) that allow forest owners to capture the benefits for providing ecosystem services.

31. Recommendations from Latin America and the Caribbean

- Encourage better coordination and communication across scales, in response to additional financial resources and opportunities for capacity building.
- Encourage and support stronger institutions at the sub-national level with adequate capacity to implement actions on the ground and to fulfil their mandates.
- Support better coordination between agencies that focus on development, participation, and environmental issues.
- Design and provide better tools and mechanisms that allow translation of policy visions into operations on the ground with adequate financing.
- Support use of existing tools/mechanisms more efficiently and in an integrated manner.
- Generate and provide governments with clear guidelines for environmental governance at sub-national level (e.g., mainstreaming land use planning at different scales).
- Encourage holistic approaches that address forests in support of effective environmental governance.
- Support efforts to move decentralized government agencies beyond monitoring and control, and transform them into strategic partners for forest management.
- Strengthen governmental recognition that decentralization is actually a long-term effort that includes and needs institution building.
- Seek out and build on existing development and social mechanisms that can channel resources and capacities from national to local and vulnerable populations (e.g., social development mechanisms, national conservation programmes).
- Encourage governments to design and implement monitoring, in cooperation with decision-makers, to organize environmental information in an effective manner (nationally and sub-nationally).
- Encourage holistic, multi-scale land use planning and joint prioritization of areas with multiple land management goals.
- Encourage improvements in participation of the forest sector in national accounting systems while assessing different methods and means to do so.
- Encourage countries to improve tracking/traceability systems for forest products.
- Recognize the relevance of forest-related services to risk reduction efforts and as safety nets for vulnerable populations.

- Encourage engaging market actors, recognizing the diversity of objectives of enterprises, with a clearer set of goals and mechanisms.
- Assess the role of the Latin American and the Caribbean Forestry Commission (COFLAC; FAO) and its possibilities within the new IAF to start refining a roadmap based on knowledge sharing and exchange of lessons learnt.
- Evaluate the feasibility/need for proposing a technical regional body to assess countries in forestry related issues and design governance structures.

IX. Detailed issues/rationales for regional recommendations

While most regions acknowledged some progress in decentralization and governance related to forests, the following issues and challenges remain, and led to the region-specific recommendations listed above:

32. Africa issues and challenges

- Limited or no financial resources at the local level to support SFM
- Inadequate capacities of various stakeholders, especially the local communities
- In some cases, still unclear communication channels for information flow
- Weak forest policy and legislative frameworks in some countries
- Marginalization of women and youth in forest management planning and decision making
- Reluctance of governments/the state to devolve sufficient authority to local communities to own and manage forest resources
- Inadequate transparency in the sharing of forest benefits and resulting conflicts among various stakeholders and lack of trust for state forest managers
- Whereas NGOs play increasingly important roles in SFM, they lack coordination within the forest sector, which could increase accountability.

33. Asia issues and challenges:

- Weak interagency coordination at country level
- Weak voice and economic incentives for the poor
- Limited area and quality of forest resources available for community forestry
- Contribution of forests to GDP and valuation of its various functions
- Policy and legal frameworks either non-existent or not implemented
- Lack of clarity of tenure rights of local communities and indigenous people
- Uncertainty about how to "sustain the gains"
- Conflicting objectives on the use of forests, e.g., conservation versus use
- Limited capacity of rights holders and stakeholders
- Lack of clarity in the roles, responsibilities and rights of duty bearers and rights holders
- Lack of true decentralization and devolution

34. Europe, Central Asia and North America regions' issues and challenges

Unlike the other regions, some participants in this group did not automatically consider decentralization itself to be a necessarily desirable goal. This group noted improvements in representation, coordination and use of funds in situations both with decentralization and without.

Challenges:

- Meaningful involvement of indigenous peoples
- Broad economic interests not always shared by all stakeholders
- Local authorities'/communities' need for the capacity and willingness to report/be accountable
- Shift and increased workload to local authorities on forest management without adequate funding from the national or local levels
- Adequate balance of shared responsibilities between the central and local levels; as well as among forest related sectors
- Conflicting interests of different stakeholders in forestry

35. Latin American and Caribbean issues and challenges

Although a number of positive changes were identified in these countries, the focus here is on the remaining issues and challenges:

- Fragmentation of governance among scales and between technical personnel and decision makers
- A tendency to consider that 'one size fits all' in thinking about tools and strategies to implement decentralized forest governance
- Limited recognition of human diversity and diverse livelihood strategies, as well as inadequate access of local communities to decision-making processes
- Inequitable benefit sharing with/among local communities
- Lack of coordinated policy-making and mainstreaming of good forest governance
- Poorly designed instruments to translate policy into action
- Decentralization still seen as a goal attainable in the "short term"
- Inadequate generation and storage or management of information
- Persistent dichotomy between decision-makers and technicians/practitioners within public entities
- Lack of recognition of the full value of forest benefits
- Limited progress in realizing the potential benefits of public-private partnerships to fund and support SFM
- Lack of attention to forests and SFM in the agendas of regional governance bodies (e.g. the Caribbean Community Secretariat, CARICOM, The Union of South American Nations, UNASUR, Climate Action Network International, CAN).

X. UNFF Interlaken +10: Youth policy brief

The UNFF Major Group Children and Youth (MGCY) held a policy analysis youth workshop in parallel to the CLI reported here. The workshop consisted of a step-by-step process, grounded in policy analysis and implementation theory, whereby youth representatives from 16 different countries identified relevant issues for youth in relation to forest management and governance. The following section is divided in five main thematic areas; each presenting said issues and the recommended policy solutions that emerged from the workshop. These policy proposals can be taken as stand-alone solutions to specific problems identified, or can be integrated in a holistic manner.

36. Forest Policy and Governance

Current forest governance practices result in overlapping jurisdiction at the international level, and other policy issues consistently overshadow those of forest governance. There has been inadequate implementation of previously agreed policies by UNFF members, and UNFF efforts have been limited to addressing problems of the past, with inadequate participation by non-governmental stakeholders.

To address these problems, the MGCY proposes a revision to ECOSOC's rules governing Major Group participation in deliberations and decision-making processes; if the UNFF wants to stay relevant, it must adapt these rules to the 21st century, and enable civil society participation in all stages of discussion. A complementary strategy to this proposal is the establishment of a permanent working group tasked with staying current on emerging forest policy and governance challenges, opportunities, and priorities, for their timely inclusion in UNFF's agenda. The working group should be comprised of representatives from Major Groups and CPF, be representative of diverse geographical regions, and meet at least once a year. In addition to the working group, the UNFF should shorten the term of its program of work in order to better integrate emerging issues.

37. Multiple Uses of Forests

Current economic policies emphasize profit-logic perspectives of consumption of goods and services that go beyond planetary boundaries. Furthermore, there exists a misrepresentation of the associated social and ecological costs, and a lack of transparency and accountability of global supply chains that has resulted in waste and inappropriate distribution of resources. This has led to further marginalization of already-oppressed groups.

To address these issues, the UNFF could develop and adopt international action plans to deal with transparency and accountability standards for governments and multi-national corporations (MNC) dealing with forest products. We further recommend the design and implementation of action plans that promote the use of indigenous sciences and practices in forest management. These action plans should be developed and implemented in accordance to international agreements, such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and International Labour Organization Convention No. 169. These international agreements will provide for the consultation, consent, and involvement of the holders of indigenous science to promote fair and equitable sharing from their use of forests.

38. Forestry Education

There is a lack of societal awareness of the multiple values of forests and many education systems have failed to adapt to emerging issues and approaches. In response to the education-related goals stated within the NLBI, we recommend a policy proposal with several components that should be implemented simultaneously.

Primarily, our proposal is to establish a 'Forest Impact Lab' (FIL), tasked with strengthening collaborative research and development of forestry education. The aim of this virtual 'global centre of excellence' is to identify gaps in, and develop innovative tools and technologies to inform and shape, forestry curricula, communications, and capacity building. Two unique projects for the FIL have been identified: 1) the continual development of a global forestry education and communications toolbox; and 2) establishment of an annual Forest Impact Week (co-chaired by youth), consisting of regional workshops and a global symposium, to facilitate up-take of FIL outputs and set priorities for the coming year. Hosted by a re-established global forest education network under the UNFF Secretariat, the FIL would consist of a core group of representatives from the CPF, regional education networks, and the MGCY. The FIL would then function as a participatory and dynamic platform to connect researchers, practitioners and students/youth, as well as existing and emerging regional education networks.

39. Forest Management and Technology

Strongly linked to inadequacies within the realm of forest education is the issue of lack of access to new technologies and reliable data, particularly for youth from developing regions. Even if UNFF promotes the development and application of scientific and technological innovations to advance Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), currently there is limited availability of reliable data and limited utilization of new technologies that hinder these objectives.

Based on the aforementioned problems, we recommend the establishment of an internet/wiki-based learning platform and global data network in support to FAO's SFM toolbox to share knowledge and promote capacity building among youth and other Major Groups. Additionally, transfer of environmentally sound technologies and emphasis on research and technology should be emphasized in the Forest Instrument as a means of achieving SFM.

40. Forest and Climate Change

Two major gaps have been identified: firstly, there are inadequate long-term strategic approaches to address the impacts of climate change on SFM. Secondly, there is a lack of coordination within the UNFF to address climate change in relation to forests from both mitigation and adaptation standpoints.

Climate change is mentioned only once and very vaguely in the current version of the NLBI. Thus, we recommend the inclusion of a clause (ideally in Section VI, but also in section V) to prioritize climate change mitigation and adaptation, and to strengthen the capacity of countries to address these issues through SFM.